

**DRAFT**

**Fauquier County Board of Supervisors**  
**Public Safety Committee**  
**Meeting of July 16, 2003**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Public Safety Committee Chairman Joe Winkelmann called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**2. Introduction of Participants**

Present were:

- Mr. Joe Winkelmann, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors  
Mr. Ray Graham, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
- Chief Philip Myer, Fauquier County Dept. of Fire and Emergency Svcs.
- Mr. Anthony Hooper, Assistant County Administrator
- Mr. Garrett Moore, VDOT
- Mr. Bill Dugan, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
- Sheriff Joseph Higgs, Jr.
- Mr. Brett Hamby, Fire and Rescue Association
- Ms. Sue Powles, Director, WFJCC
- Mr. Tom Marable, President, Fire and Rescue Association
- Mr. Charles Shepherd, Health Department
- Mr. Billy Jenkins, Fauquier County Operations and Services
- The Honorable Jonathan S. Lynn, Attorney for the Commonwealth
- First Sergeant J. Edward Murphy, Virginia State Police
- Ms. Colleen Dawson, Fire and Rescue Association
- Ms. Catherine Heritage, Public Safety Committee Lead Staff

**3. Approval of the Minutes and Agenda**

Mr. Winkelmann moved for approval of the minutes of May 21, 2003. Seconded: Mr. Graham. Adopted. Mr. Winkelmann moved for approval of the current agenda with two additions: "Funding for School Resource Officers" and "Fire and Rescue Service Plan and Hazmat Cleanup Policy". Seconded: Mr. Graham. Adopted.

**4. Funding for School Resource Officers**

The Sheriff explained that presently there are four School Resource Officers serving six schools, but with a new school opening in 2004 and Southeastern School also in need of the SRO program, the resources to meet the needs of our children are becoming limited. The SRO Program in Fauquier County Schools is a well established and successful program that needs to be augmented. The expanded program with the addition of two SRO's will be able to serve more children and greatly reduce the number of children that are presently underserved. It has been agreed between the School System and the Sheriffs Office that when the federal financial commitment runs out after three years each entity will fund one position from the annual budget. So moved to adopt this proposal: Mr. Winkelmann. Seconded: Mr. Graham. Adopted.

**5. Fire and Rescue Service Plan and Hazmat Cleanup Policy**

Progress on these items was reviewed, discussed and approved to date.

**6. Status of Tasking Assignments**

**a. Road Closure Procedures**

Sheriff Higgs indicated that his review had revealed current procedures to be adequate in view of the flexibility required in these situations. Generally concurred.

**b. Fuel Spill Clean Up Ordinance**

Chief Myer indicated that he was working on this with Assistant County Attorney Kevin Burke and had obtained a sample policy from Fairfax County to use as a template.

**c. Warning Siren SOP**

The current policy was reviewed and found to be in order, provided all efforts were and will continue to be made to avoid human error. Generally concurred.

**d. 15-Year Radio System Costs**

Mr. Hooper discussed potential upkeep costs for the system over a 15-year period.

**e. Tidewater Regional Evacuation Plan**

Sheriff Higgs indicated that a sample policy had been obtained on CD-Rom. He indicated that Captain Greg Mauck and First Sergeant Murphy had met with the Council of Governments. Mr. Moore of VDOT requested a letter and resolution from the Board of Supervisors regarding movable barricades and evacuation signs. Ms. Heritage was tasked with preparing this.

Chief Myer indicated that an exercise is planned in August at Fauquier Hospital. A statewide drill is planned for October. The Sheriff noted that there have already been drills in several schools.

**7. Tri-County Cooperative Detention Center**

Sheriff Higgs indicated that this issue was back on the agenda for a meeting with legislators on Monday, July 21. Some concerns include what to do with existing facility staff.

Sheriff Higgs indicated that a number of state-responsible inmates had been transported from the CFFW facility. He discussed a notice that he had recently received indicating that Fauquier's costs might increase significantly because of needed new construction. However, he noted that since the state-responsible population is now down, these costs may not be as significant as originally anticipated.

**8. 800 MHz Radio System**

Mr. Hooper indicated that implementation is moving forward and that tower sites are almost finalized. Mr. Dugan indicated that VDOT is preparing to improve the road at the Blue Mountain site. The SBA and Marshall sites are equipped and ready to go. Every attempt will be made to test this year before leaf-fall. Chief Myer indicated that he had received a \$100,000 grant for pagers, bringing the grant total for this year up to \$165,000.

**9. Progress on Other 2003 Goals**

With regard to the Emergency Operations Plan, Chief Myer indicated that VDOT and the State Police have recently had a meeting. Some federal funding has been obtained for planning and a consultant has been hired to put the plan into document form. Chief Myer indicated that we are about six months away from integrating our plan with that of the School Division. Mr. Winkelmann requested Chief Myer to contact Mark Cornwall regarding the integration of the two plans.

With regard to Homeland Security, Mr. Shepherd indicated that the federal government is pulling back from encouraging smallpox vaccination in first-responders at this time due to health complications. He noted that SARS and Monkey Pox are not major concerns at this time. There are no "hot areas" in the County for West Nile Virus at this time.

The Sheriff indicated that there is still a problem with finding a suitable location for a southern public safety substation.

Chief Myer indicated that DFES space needs will be addressed in the Fire and Rescue Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Winkelmann indicated that he hoped that the Frytown Water issue would finally be resolved at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on Monday, July 21.

#### **10. Roundtable**

Sheriff Higgs indicated that he had received a \$9,700 grant for bulletproof vests.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that there were now surveillance cameras at all the elementary schools.

Ms. Powles indicated that WFJCC is down six positions due to non-competitive pay with surrounding jurisdictions. Sergeant Murphy and Sheriff Higgs indicated that this is a serious problem in their offices as well. Mr. Winkelmann requested Ms. Heritage to speak with Randy Wheeler and legislative liaison, Eldon James, to see what steps could be taken to remedy this problem.

Mr. Marable indicated that the Fire and Rescue Association met recently with Bryan Tippie and Paul Blackmer, and the CIP development is in process.

First Sergeant Murphy indicated that four new troopers had graduated and that all were commercial motor vehicle-certified.

Brett Hamby requested that the Public Safety Committee write a letter to the Town of Warrenton requesting a halt in the construction of the traffic light at the intersection of West Shirley Avenue and Carriage House Drive because resultant traffic back-up would block access to the Warrenton Company One Fire Department. Mr. Winkelmann requested that Ms. Heritage draft this letter as a precursor to a meeting between the Town and the County on possible solutions to this problem.

Mr. Winkelmann indicated that in view of vacation schedules there would be no meeting in August. The next meeting will take place on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

#### **11. Adjourn**

Hearing no further business, Mr. Winkelmann called for adjournment. Generally concurred.

*Given under my hand this eighteenth day of July, 2003*

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*Catherine M. Heritage, Director of Adult Court Services  
Lead Staff, Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee*